

NOTE

NEW NEARCTIC REGION RECORDS OF PALEARCTIC
MEGASELIA SPECIES(DIPTERA: PHORIDAE)

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In the summer of 1990 we conducted an informal survey of insects of the boreal region of Alberta (Brown *et al.* 1990), to document more fully the distribution of taxa of interest to us. Among the material collected in this survey, and in other Alberta collections, were specimens of five species of the paraphyletic genus *Megaselia* Rondani, all of which are new records for the Nearctic Region. These species are *M. coccyx* Schmitz, *M. eccoptomera* Schmitz, *M. gartensis* Disney, *M. humeralis* (Zetterstedt) and *M. sordescens* Schmitz. All except *M. humeralis* are similar to the Holarctic Region species *M. sordida* (Zetterstedt), but the differences between them are discussed by Disney (1985). Specimens of *M. sordida*, a species which is widely distributed in Alberta, were also collected in our survey.

All of the five newly recorded taxa are distinctive species, and are recognized easily using Disney's Handbook of the British *Megaselia* (Disney 1989; Brown 1989), a publication which is extremely useful even in Alberta, far outside of its intended area of coverage. I suggest that anyone attempting to identify North American specimens of *Megaselia* should spend some time becoming familiar with the illustrations of male terminalia found in Disney's book. This will help to supplement identifications based on the hopelessly out of date keys of Borgmeier (1964, 1966).

Most of the material is deposited in my collection, but some voucher specimens also will be placed in the collection of the Provincial Museum of Alberta and the Strickland Museum, University of Alberta. Some records for the above mentioned taxa are as follows:

M. coccyx Schmitz, 2♂ CANADA: Alberta, 8km W Edmonton, Wagner Natural Area, 27.vi.-5.vii.1990, B.V.Brown, Malaise trap, poplar/ spruce.

M. eccoptomera Schmitz, CANADA: Alberta, 1♂, 12km N Boyle, 19.v.-10.vi.1990, B.V.Brown, FIT 1a, *Populus/ Picea*; 3♂, 91km S Fort McMurray, 19.v.-10.vi.1990, B.V.Brown, FIT 1d, *Picea*; 1♂, 58km S Fort McMurray, 19.v.-10.vi.1990, B.V.Brown, FIT 1e, *Pinus/ Picea*; 1♂, 750km NW Edmonton, Bistcho Lake, 20-22.vi.1987, Malaise trap, leg. A.T. Finnamore; 1♂, Hondo, 29.v.-9.vii.1990, E.R.Fuller, FIT 2a, *Pinus/ Picea/ Populus*; 12♂, 10km N Slave Lake, Muskeg Lake, 29.v.-9.vii.1990, E.R.Fuller, FIT 2b, *Pinus/ Picea/ Populus*; 3♂, 30km N Slave Lake, Marten Mountain, 29.v.-9.vii.1990, E.R.Fuller, FIT 2c, *Picea/ Populus*; 2♂, 61km N Slave Lake, 29.v.-9.vii.1990, E.R.Fuller, FIT 2e, *Populus/ Picea*; 1♂, 13km N Hinton, 9-30.vi.1990, T.G.Spanton, FIT 3a, *Picea/ Populus*; 3♂, 48km N Hinton, 9-30.vi.1990, T.G.Spanton, FIT 3b, *Picea/ Pinus*; 5♂, 84km N Hinton, 9-30.vi.1990,

T.G.Spanton, FIT 3c, *Piceal Pinus*; 1♂, 8km W Edmonton, Wagner Natural Area, 4-13.vi.1990, B.V.Brown, Malaise trap, poplar/ spruce; 20km S Nordegg, 4♂, 27.v-24.vi., 7♂, 24.vi-23.vii.1990, D.A.Pollock, FIT 4e, *Piceal Pinus/ Populus*; 21♂, 38km S Robb, 27.v.-24.vi.1990, D.A.Pollock, FIT 4c; 1♂, 10km S Nordegg, 24.vi-23.vii.1990, D.A.Pollock, FIT 4d.

M. gartensis Disney, 1♂, CANADA: Alberta, 190km S Fort McMurray, 10.vi.-22.vii.1990, B.V.Brown, FIT 1b.

M. humeralis (Zetterstedt), 2♂, 2♀, CANADA: Alberta, 61km N Slave Lake, 29.v.-9.vii.1990, E.R.Fuller, FIT 2e.

M. sordescens Schmitz, CANADA: Alberta, 2♂, 38km S Robb, 27.v-24.vi.1990, D.A.Pollock, FIT 4c; 4♂, 20km S Nordegg, 24.vi-23.vii.1990, D.A.Pollock, FIT 4e, *Piceal Pinus/ Populus*; 2♂, 30km N Slave Lake, Marten Mountain, 29.v.-9.vii.1990, E.R.Fuller, FIT 2c, *Piceal Populus*.

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The prompt, cheerful and efficient service provided by our printers, Hallis Graphics Ltd., has added to the pleasure of publication. I will miss the association with the President of Hallis, Mr. J. Haukedal. I take this opportunity to wish him well in these trying times for the smaller businesses.

Mrs. Suseela Subbarao has served for 10 years as the Publications Manager of *Quaest. Ent.* In that capacity, she kept us up to date as publishing operations became more complex and sophisticated. She developed and maintained good working relations with the various individuals and groups involved in production of our journal. She endeavored to satisfy the requirements of authors, even those who seemed to be unreasonably demanding. From time to time, she